

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
January 22, 2016

Quileute Tribal Administrative Office  
La Push, WA

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

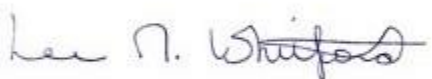
Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



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Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



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Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Heather Reed (WDFW, Vice-Chair), George Hart (US Navy, Secretary), Mel Moon (Quileute Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute alternate), Joe Gilbertson (Hoh Tribe), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Jan Newton (Research), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Tom Burlingame (Fishing Alternate), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development), Cedar Shannon (Tourism and Economic Development alternate), Casey Dennehy (MRC), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Jessi Doerpinghaus (WDFW Alternate), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), John Stadler (NOAA-NMFS), Steve Fradkin (NPS-ONP), Captain Brian Gilda (USCG) , Ray Colby (Makah Tribe)

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Lonnie Foster (Quileute Tribe), Beverly Loudan (Quileute Tribe), Katie Krueger (Quileute Tribe), Josh Etherton (Quileute Tribe), Frank Hanson (ONRC), Brandi Bednarik (Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority), Roxi Underwood (Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Nancy Wright, Justin Ellis, Alisha Friel, Nicole Harris, Rebecca Lewis, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Chair Lee Whitford and host Mel Moon, Quileute Tribe, welcomed everyone back to the SAC business meeting and thanked everyone for their productive discussion during the joint IPC-SAC meeting in the morning.

**Adopt Agenda** – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***It was passed by full AC member consensus.***

#### **Internal Affairs:**

**Approval of November 2015 Meeting Minutes** – John Stadler shared several edits to the summary of the Ocean Noise and NOAA presentation by Leila Hatch and Kathy Broughton, from pages 5 through 7. All proposed edits do not change the meaning of presentation material.

***George Hart motioned to approve the November meeting minutes after corrections are made and Katrina Lassiter seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**Announcement of Education, Fishing, Marine Resources Committee and Tourism/Economic Development Alternate Seat Recruitments**– New members to the sanctuary advisory council were announced earlier at the joint Intergovernmental Policy Council and AC meeting. The selected representatives for all open seats have been approved as follows:

- Lee Whitford, Education primary
- Mike Barton, Education alternate (new member)
- Joel Kawahara, Fishing primary
- Tom Burlingame, Fishing alternate (new member)
- Casey Dennehy, Marine Resources Committee primary (switched from alternate)

- Rich Osborne, Marine Resources Committee primary (switched from primary)
- Cedar Shannon, Tourism/Economic Development alternate (new member)

New members gave brief introduction and background. Mark Ozias, the newly appointed Clallam County Commissioner who will replace Bill Peach on the advisory council, took office on January 1. Most of his professional background has been in non-profit management. He and his wife have also been small business owners in the Sequim area. Tom Burlingame and his wife live on Bowman Beach where they run The Inn at Neah Bay. Tom has been running Excel Fishing Charters for around ten years, and has extensive fishing experience in the Neah Bay area. Cedar Shannon started working at Kalaloch Lodge in July as their Environmental and Facilities Manager, with many years of experience working for concessions of national parks and other related outdoor recreational work. Mike Barton is an Emeritus Professor of Biology at Centre College in Danville, KY. He and his wife recently moved to Sequim and are both long time educators.

**Executive Committee Officer Elections** – Carol announced the 2016 AC officer candidates: Lee Whitford to continue as Chair; Heather Reed as Vice-Chair; and John Veentjer for Secretary since George Hart will be retiring in May. Carol made a call for votes and all three were approved. There was no further discussion. ***All AC members were in consensus.***

**Report on National SAC Summit** – Lee reported on her recent trip to Annapolis, MD for the National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit. Each year Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) hosts a summit to provide an opportunity for SAC Chairs and sanctuary staff to discuss relevant topics that impact the present and future of our national marine sanctuaries through council actions, membership, and community engagement. Lee summarized highlights from the summit, stressing that these were only her opinions and perspective:

- The National Marine Sanctuary System works as a grassroots process, driven by community support and engagement, and is unique compared to other federal agencies in having active advisory councils.
- There have been several sanctuary expansions, including last year's expansions of Cordell Bank NMS and Greater Farallones NMS. Two new site nominations have been accepted (Mallows Bay- Potomac River in MD, Lake Michigan NMS in WI, both protecting and interpreting nationally significant collection of shipwrecks), along with one accepted to the new site the inventory list (Chumash Heritage in CA).
- In terms of the future direction of ONMS, the need for sanctuaries to remain "relevant" was highlighted. ONMS leadership is already thinking about their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 and envisioning where they want to be at that point through broadening partnerships, outreach and fundraising. Lee is concerned with the idea of sanctuaries and/or their advisory councils needing to fund themselves and/or their programs.
- "Earth is Blue" and "Get Into Your Sanctuary Day" campaigns have been successful at reaching new audiences. Education programs such as the Ocean Guardian School program are growing. Lee believes we can really expand our own reach by SAC member engagement effectively using social media.

- The Joint Call to Action between the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and the Sanctuary Advisory Councils is moving forward with success. The document was presented at the June 2014 summit and was titled, “Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America’s Most Treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship”.
- Overall volunteer hours have been increasing system-wide.
- Visitors centers play a larger role at other sites compared to OCNMS.
- There was an entire session on how sanctuaries experience the local effects of climate change. Lee feels that OCNMS and the Advisory Council are doing leading work on climate change. She noted that West Coast Region sanctuaries were more research-oriented compared to other sanctuaries.
- An entire session was dedicated to fundraising and how to fundraise. The implications she felt from this session are part of other areas of concern Lee expressed:
  1. The lack of support we are seeing for OCNMS’s basic monitoring efforts, let alone deeper and broader scientific initiatives and partnerships to meet OCNMS’s Management Plan goals and objectives
  2. The push for sanctuaries, and even SACs, to be involved in fundraising
  3. The current updating of the National Sanctuary Strategic Plan
  4. How OCNMS will be able to maintain its work not only locally, but also regionally and internationally

Overall, after learning more about what other sanctuaries and councils are focusing on, Lee believes that OCNMS and its AC are doing great work for the system. She would like our council to be involved in the ONMS Strategic Plan development and for SAC members to provide her and the Executive Committee more feedback on meeting agendas and work plan topics.

### **Information Items:**

**Draft 2015 AC Work Plan**– Lee referred to the draft 2016 Advisory Council Work Plan developed by the AC Executive Committee based on AC feedback and past interests. Proposed topics for the council to address in the coming calendar year: Sanctuary Outreach for SAC members to help better inform members and their constituents; OCNMS Management Plan Implementation; Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification workshop development and follow-up; Ecosystem Indicators for OCNMS; OCNMS website overhaul; Travel and Tourism Strategies and Topics of Interest to help plan for upcoming meetings as well as Past Topics of Interest to follow-up with and track.

Steve proposed adding “ongoing voluntourism opportunities, e.g. WA CoastSavers projects” to ONMS Travel and Tourism Strategy under Ocean Literacy. Heather suggested adding “Harmful Algal Blooms” as a Topic of Interest. Discussion included the timeline for the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site workshop development, with specified target date of spring 2016 instead of “TBD”. Jennifer Hennessey also offered language to build upon the outcomes of Sanctuary Outreach for AC members and include “build support” to increased awareness and add “nationally” instead of just regional target, with a mention of coordination with IPC to build

this support. She also proposed an action-output for this topic to the four listed: 5) Recommendations/letters to programs or targeted strategic entities and others. The draft 2016 AC Work Plan can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan\\_draft\\_2016.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_draft_2016.pdf).

***Katrina Lassiter motioned to approve and adopt the draft 2016 AC Work Plan with additions and changes raised during the discussion, and George Hart seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**2015 OCNMS R/V *Tatoosh* Field Operations and Data Management** – Justin Ellis, Vessel Operations Coordinator, provided a brief report on the 2015 field season of Research Vessel (R/V) *Tatoosh*, which marked its 21<sup>st</sup> season of operation. Justin highlighted improvements to *Tatoosh* made last year and upcoming needs. *OC-2*, has been a very reliable and seaworthy small boat, and was also used last year for education and outreach. Justin gave an overview of 2015 sanctuary field operations, which entailed 51 days at sea, for 344 project hours. Much of R/V *Tatoosh*'s field time was dedicated to the oceanographic moorings (39%) and project partner work (39%), followed by habitat mapping (20% of total time) and outreach (2%). Partner project demand significantly increased, with request for work on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and a need to recover acoustic moorings. The OCNMS multibeam system was running after major repairs last year, and facilitated progress in habitat mapping. Oceanographic moorings work took up less of the overall field time, while still accomplishing work at 10 sites surveying at depths of 15m and 42m for dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, turbidity and currents, to provide information that can help with modeling climate change, larval dispersal, hypoxia, productivity and harmful algal blooms. OCNMS staff received assistance from Quileute Natural Resources' Jennifer Hagen and Rio Foster, which improved sanctuary field operations. At the end of the season two mooring buoys were missing, with ongoing attempts to locate and retrieve valuable equipment and data.

This year, more outreach was conducted using the *OC-2*. Education and outreach included Olympic National Park training, the Christmas Bird Count, volunteer appreciation cruises, filming for the Smithsonian Institute, and Office of Coast Survey.

OCNMS partnered with NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center to visit historical survey sites for nearshore subtidal research. Plankton monitoring in 2015 was more involved due to emergency response to "the blob" phenomenon for Olympic Region HABs and resulting Harmful Algal Blooms. Another partner project involved recovering acoustic recorders for cetacean monitoring to identify critical habitat for southern resident killer whales.

OCNMS is still discussing plans for a new vessel. The new NOAA Corps Officer, Alisha Friel, was introduced to the council. Alisha will be replacing Justin and has a degree in Marine Biology. She was recently based in Alaska working for the NOAA Ship *Fairweather*.

Geographer Nancy Wright highlighted data management results from the 2015 field season. Last season they worked in the following program areas: Coastal Habitats, Wildlife Research,

Seafloor Mapping, Oceanography, and Citizen Science. One the major highlights of 2015, was a set of SCUBA transect studies with NWFSC in the nearshore kelp beds that had been done between La Push and Neah Bay in 1987, 1995 and 1999. The study aims to monitor community changes due to sea otter population growth and expansion. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, OCNMS and others conducted the annual sea otter census at Norwegian Memorial and Bluff Point onshore to ground truth aerial counts. OCNMS continued annual rocky intertidal monitoring at Point Grenville on Quinault Indian Nation, monitoring mussels, barnacles, sea stars and surf grass using fixed plots. This project is part of the USGS Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) with monitoring sites spanning California to Alaska. The sea star population was down to 20% of its 2014 population, although sea star wasting disease was not observed.

The Washington seafloor mapping atlas is a combination of 35 surveys conducted since 2000 that were re-imaged and cleaned by Chris Goldfinger's lab at Oregon State University.

The seafloor mapping indicates simple classification of CMECS of superficial sediment composition. You can now download the GIS seafloor project on the OCNMS webpage, map page or map book at: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/science/habitatmapping/habitatmapping.html>. Nancy presented a map of areas mapped in 2015 during 10 field days, including the outer side of Quillayute Needles south to Giants Graveyard. Next year they will start with ground-truthing and backscatter to add into the seafloor atlas. OCNMS now has 15 years of continuous data from oceanographic moorings.

As of 2012, volunteers from different schools signed up through NOAA Marine Debris Program to add more standardized data from beach cleanups in an effort to know what is being deposited onto the coastal beaches, and what the potential sources might be.

Justin's presentation can be found online at: [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/fieldreport\\_vessel\\_2015\\_justinellis.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/fieldreport_vessel_2015_justinellis.pdf) and Nancy's can be accessed at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/fieldreport\\_vessel\\_presentation2015.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/fieldreport_vessel_presentation2015.pdf).

You can also refer to the following informational summary documents:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/vessel\\_report\\_2015.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/vessel_report_2015.pdf) and

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/overview\\_research\\_monitor\\_2015.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/overview_research_monitor_2015.pdf).

**Public Comment**– There was none at this time.

**Superintendent's Report** – Carol referred council members to the January 2016 Office Report for updates on sanctuary activity in the past two months, which can also be found online at: [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport\\_january\\_2016.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_january_2016.pdf).

1. OCNMS will be revamping its website in spring using a much more visually engaging format that is more functional and navigable. This is part of a system-wide effort to update sanctuary websites with a national visual standard. A SAC subcommittee will be

involved with orientation of the new website to test its workability and functionality before its final launch.

2. OCNS Acting Director John Armor and West Coast Region Director Bill Douros participated in the Intergovernmental Policy Council Meeting, hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation, to discuss their key priorities including the Habitat Framework Initiative. Joe Schumacker gave an excellent presentation on research needs, which resulted in a funded research cruise to Quinault Canyon.
3. Following the completion of the 2011 Management Plan, OCNMS received a request from Makah Tribe to develop a permit consultation policy, which has been completed. In November, George and Liam hosted a webinar on how OCNMS consults with tribes with a target audience of other NOAA offices.
4. We recently celebrated our volunteers with an annual Olympic Coast Discovery Center Awards Ceremony to recognize our docents. Top volunteer, Jim Jewell, contributed 206 hours this past year. Volunteers are engaged throughout the year through continuous education opportunities and field trips. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to accomplish as much of our Management Plan activities.
5. Grant applications for the Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) are now being accepted. Carol requested the PNW BWET grant announcement be shared with constituents.
6. Karlyn has been participating in the monthly meetings with Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission to identify ways OCNMS can collaborate to increase our visibility.
7. OCNMS and Feiro Marine Life Center staff finished their joint program working with high school students and the Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) club. The club will resume meeting in spring.
8. The OCNMS seafloor atlas has gone live on our website. Please explore the website and send any questions to Nancy.
9. In November OCNMS collaborated with NWFSC to collect samples for Harmful Algal Blooms and will continue to look for opportunities to conduct similar research and monitoring work with RV *Tatoosh*.
10. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Aquatic Invasive Species team conducted a second assessment survey at the site of Misawa dock grounding site near Mosquito Creek. They are in the process of analyzing the samples, but so far they have not observed invasive species.
11. There is a new deep sea coral education product developed by the education teams of five West Coast Region sanctuaries. It is a series of products that can be used for teaching curriculum on deep sea corals and rocky habitats. Videos are included.

Carol concluded by asking for volunteers to be part of the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Working Group to help plan and develop the spring workshop, which will be staffed by Kevin Grant from OCNMS. Lee Whitford, George Hart, Jan Newton, Steve Fradkin, Casey Dennehy and Jennifer Hagen volunteered to serve on the working group.

### **Future Agenda Topics**

- Bob Boekelheide proposed a presentation on the status of fisheries in the sanctuary, such as target species and their population status compared to past trends.
- Captain Brian Gilda offered to present on the Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) from U.S. Coast Guard's perspective and their role in terms of monitoring and working with the Canadian Coast Guard.
- Jan Newton suggested two potential topics 1) forecast model work done by Parker MacCready and team, which will soon include ocean acidification variables; and 2) a guided presentation of the NANOOS data portal, showcasing some of the new developments. She also requested that any mention of Cha'ba buoy include NANOOS to indicate its affiliation.
- John Stadler offered to provide a more detailed presentation on the status of Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) updates.
- George Hart noted that U.S. Navy has secured the Keyport Naval Museum for a sanctuary staff presentation to Navy staff and local community on Friday, April 22 (Earth Day). The presentation will be open to the public.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** in Port Angeles, WA. The meeting was adjourned.